

In the Abstract:

Please insert the following Abstract in its entirety into the application text following page 15 of the enclosed application:

A method for the regeneration of etching solutions containing iron for the use in etching or pickling copper or copper alloys and an apparatus for carrying out the method is described. The method involves feeding the etching solution to be regenerated from the etching system into an electrolysis cell being hermetically sealed or having an anode hood (8), the electrolysis cell comprising a cathode (1), an inert anode (2), means (3) for removing the electrolytically deposited copper from the cathode and means (4) for collecting the removed copper and applying a potential to the removed copper, wherein the electrolysis cell does not have an ion exchange membrane or a diaphragm.

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph at the top of page 1, directly under the title:

This application is a National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/006115, filed June 7, 2004, which claims priority to German Application No. DE 103 26 767.0, filed June 13, 2003.

At page 1, line 6, please insert

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

At page 1, line 11, please insert

Field of the Invention

At page 1, line 16, please insert

Description of the Related Art